U.S. Army
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News Release

Edgewood CB Center Partners with NIH to Validate Research Methods Which Could Reduce Need for Animal Testing

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. – Through an interagency agreement with the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) will conduct a validation study for *in vitro* basal cytotoxicity testing. A primary goal of the study is to evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of two *in vitro* tests that, if validated, could reduce the need for animal testing during toxicity determination studies.

As one of three laboratories selected for this international collaboration, ECBC's Molecular Engineering Team will conduct a three-phase study in compliance with Good Laboratory Practice standards, which are stringent research standards established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In recent years, ECBC successfully completed another toxicology validation sponsored by The Gillette Medical Evaluation Laboratories of the Gillette Company that can be used to evaluate ocular (eye) chemical toxicity. ECBC's partnership with NIEHS enables the Center to expand its role in *in vitro* toxicity testing and reduce experimental use of animals in the assessment of risks posed by exposure to chemicals, toxins and drugs.

"We welcome this opportunity to partner with the ECBC," stated Dr. William Stokes, director of the National Toxicology Program Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative Toxicological Methods at NIEHS. "We were very impressed with ECBC's exploratory biological research coupled with the Center's FDA-accredited labs and felt confident they could produce the high quality data and successful testing protocols we need."

With more than 85 years of experience, ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness. For more information on ECBC, please visit its Web site at http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil/RDA/ecbc/ or contact the public affairs office at (410) 436-4347.

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